

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 14, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 1999

SENATE BILL

No. 1153

Introduced by Senator Brulte

February 26, 1999

~~An act to add Section 745 to the Public Utilities Code, An act to add Section 900 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to gas utilities.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1153, as amended, Brulte. Gas utility programs.

Existing law requires the ~~commission~~ *Public Utilities Commission* to establish a prescribed program of assistance to low-income gas customers, referred to as the California Alternate Rates for Energy Program. Existing law requires the commission to require a gas corporation to perform home weatherization services for low-income customers if the commission determines that a significant need for those services exists in the corporation's service territory, as prescribed.

~~This bill would state that it is the intent of the Legislature to resolve issues regarding the funding of the gas utility programs described above, in a manner that preserves the programs and addresses any competitive inequities resulting from the programs' funding methodologies.~~

This bill would require the commission to determine the most efficient and cost-effective way to provide these programs in a consistent manner among public utility gas

corporation service territories, and to develop and implement efficient and cost-effective programs on or before July 1, 2001. The bill would authorize the commission to conduct compliance and financial audits for purposes of the programs.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~—yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 745 is added to the Public~~
2 ~~Utilities Code, to read:~~

3 ~~745. It is the intent of the Legislature to resolve issues~~
4 ~~regarding the funding of those natural gas public purpose~~
5 ~~programs, such as those authorized under Section 701.1,~~
6 ~~739.1, 739.2, 740, and 2790, in a manner that preserves the~~
7 ~~programs and addresses any competitive inequities~~
8 ~~resulting from the programs' funding methodologies.~~

9 SECTION 1. Section 900 is added to the Public
10 Utilities Code, to read:

11 900. The commission shall determine the most
12 efficient and cost-effective way to provide programs
13 pursuant to Sections 739.1, 739.2, and 2790 in a consistent
14 manner among public utility gas corporation service
15 territories. In determining the most cost-effective way to
16 provide service that benefits persons who are eligible for
17 low-income programs, the commission shall consider
18 factors including, but not limited to, outreach efforts to
19 reach the targeted population and the types of discounts
20 and services that should be provided by each utility. On
21 or before July 1, 2001, the commission shall develop and
22 implement efficient and cost-effective programs
23 pursuant to Sections 739.1, 739.2, and 2790. The
24 commission may conduct compliance audits to ensure
25 compliance with any commission order or resolution
26 relating to the implementation of programs pursuant to
27 Sections 739.1, 739.2, and 2790 and may conduct financial
28 audits for purposes of the programs.

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